

Marksmanship in the Army.
The War Department has determined to improve, if possible, the shooting capacity of the army. This is a good idea. The army is an expensive department of the government. We hire it to kill people when the occasion demands. For this purpose we furnish it with the most approved apparatus, except when there is a job in the way, and someone wants to make a little money in a fat contract. The curious thing about our army is that while the only enemy it is called on to oppose is within its territory and jurisdiction, that enemy is as a rule, if not better, equipped in death-dealing machinery than it is. There is only one way by which this can be effected, and that is through corrupt connivance of the Indian agents. If we had honest agents, war on the plains would be impossible, but for some reason or other, it has never been able, except in a few rare cases, to discover the right class of persons, for service. If the shooting standard of the army is to be elevated, targets will, of course, be needed. The larger portion of the army is on the plains and Western forts. If in some way it could be arranged that the agents who live and flourish in this region could be made to serve in the capacity of targets, the military would be a great gain all around.—New York Herald.

Bound Her Chickens Should Swim.
Some time ago a hen was set upon ducks' eggs, and in due time the chickens were out, and on their way to the nearest water. Huddled much around at the apparent folly of her brood, but after a few days, she lost all fear, and each morning she led them to the water and patiently waited until they were done bathing. After a few weeks the ducks were able to take care of themselves, and the hen was set upon eggs of her own kind. When the chickens were hatched, she had not forgotten what appeared to be maternal duty. She led her flock to the water, but to her surprise no one entered. After some time spent in talking to them in language, trying to convince them that it was their duty to go into the water, she became exasperated at what looked like disobedience on the part of her children, seized them one by one and threw them in, drowning the whole flock.—Bangor Whig and Courier.

A Senator's Racket.
One day in 1861 Senator Zach Chandler was a passenger on the train from Chicago to Lansing, and, as usual, enough, no one in the car had any idea of his identity. Two men had the seat behind him, and from talking of war they drifted to politics, and then to enough Chandler's name became mixed up. Both men were red-hot against him, and directly one of them observed: "It's a wonder to me that some one doesn't shoot the old blood letter!" "Oh! he'll get his dose yet, and don't you forget it!" replied the other. The Senator turned slowly around, took a good look at both, and then said: "Gentlemen, please speak a little lower—I am Senator Chandler myself." He thought he had them frozen solid, but he was mistaken. He had scarcely turned his head when one of them leaped forward and replied: "That's all right, pard, if you can beat the conductor with it; but don't try to stuff us! We met the old chap back in Devoe's saloon long ago, waiting to go East, and it cost me \$22 in cash and a silver watch to kill him! If you've got a new racket, trot it out—we are no givaways!"

Parisian Liars.
Gallman's Messenger says: During the early part of the present year in Paris, a French corps was encamped for some time near a wood swarming with parrots. Every morning at day-break the parrots would utter a note which was heard by the well-known corps.

The Ring Rules Favre Wars.
The late Jules Favre, 1818-1896, again in 1874 conducted the defense of the French Court of Appeals of the case of the heirs of one of the pseudo Bourbons, Charles William Stuart, who had claimed to be Charles Louis, Duke of Normandy, son of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. When he concluded his plea, the French Pretender's daughter presented him with a cane ring, inscribed with the figure of a centaur drawing a bow, which she said belonged to her father, Louis XVII. This ring Mr. Favre always wore, and when in 1871 he went to Frankfurt to sign the treaty with Germany, Bismarck desired him to seal it in the figure. "But I have no seal, said Mr. Favre. 'I am not a sovereign.' " "But you have a ring there," said Bismarck. "Oh, never mind, it will do." And the treaty of Frankfurt was sealed in behalf of the third Republic with the ring of possibly—the King of France.

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